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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/643,916	08/20/2003	Tomoo Kobayashi	040666.01	5015
25944	7590	05/06/2004	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			GRAINGER, QUANA MASHELL	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				2852

DATE MAILED: 05/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/643,916	KOBAYASHI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Quana Grainger	2852

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,4-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 2-3 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 - 1) Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement filed 2-5-2004 has been considered.

Drawings

3. The formal drawings are approved by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1, 4, and 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hinokigaya et al. (cited reference JP 07-084490). Hinokigaya et al. teaches an image stripping apparatus comprising: an image stripping member having a surface layer having affinity and releasability with respect to an image recording material; an image stripping means for stripping the image forming material from an image recording medium by making the image stripping member contact the image forming material on the image recording medium and heating the

image recording medium; and a removing means for removing, from said image stripping member, the image forming material which has been transferred to the image stripping member from the image recording medium (Figure 2). The image stripping apparatus further comprising: a reducing means for reducing adhesiveness between the image recording medium and the image forming material. The material forming a surface layer of the image recording medium has releasability with respect to the image recording material.

Hinokigaya et al. teaches an image stripping method utilizing an image stripping apparatus, the method comprising the steps of: stripping an image forming material from an image recording medium by making an image stripping member contact the image forming material on the image recording medium and heating the image recording medium, the image stripping member having a surface layer having affinity and releasability with respect to an image recording material; and removing, from the image stripping member, the image forming material which has been transferred to the image stripping member from the image recording medium.

6. Claims 1 and 4-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Magai et al. (cited reference JP 07-199754). Magai et al. teaches an image stripping apparatus comprising an image stripping member having a surface layer having affinity and releasability with respect to an image recording material; an image stripping means for stripping the image forming material from an image recording medium by making the image stripping member contact the image forming material on the image recording medium and heating the image recording medium; and a removing means for removing, from said image stripping member, the image forming material

which has been transferred to the image stripping member from the image recording medium (Figure 2). The image stripping apparatus further comprising: a reducing means for reducing adhesiveness between the image recording medium and the image forming material. The reducing means for reducing adhesiveness is a heating means for heating the image recording medium. The material forming a surface layer of the image recording medium has releasability with respect to the image recording material.

Magai et al. teaches an image stripping method utilizing an image stripping apparatus, the method comprising the steps of: stripping an image forming material from an image recording medium by making an image stripping member contact the image forming material on the image recording medium and heating the image recording medium, the image stripping member having a surface layer having affinity and releasability with respect to an image recording material; and removing, from the image stripping member, the image forming material which has been transferred to the image stripping member from the image recording medium. The image stripping method further comprising the step of reducing adhesiveness between the image recording medium and the image forming material, before the image stripping member contacts the image forming material on the image recording medium. The step of reducing adhesiveness, the image forming material on the image recording medium is heated.

Allowable Subject Matter

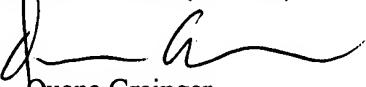
7. Claims 2-3 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Contact Information

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quana Grainger whose telephone number is 571-272-2135. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Arthur Grimley can be reached on 571-272-2136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Quana Grainger
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2852

QG